

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:

dead *E. coli* ~~containing therein~~ comprising at least one modified allergen whose amino acid sequence differs from that of a wild-type allergen that occurs in nature such that the modified allergen has a reduced ability to bind to or cross-link IgE as compared with the wild-type allergen, wherein the modified allergen is encapsulated inside the dead *E. coli*; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in foods, venoms, or latex.

36. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in a food selected from the group consisting of peanuts, milk, eggs, seafood, nuts, dairy products, and fruit.

37. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in bee venom.

38. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is an Ara h 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), Ara h 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), or Ara h 3 (SEQ ID NO:3) protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:3.

39. **(Original)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the sequence of the modified allergen differs from the sequence of the wild-type allergen by one or more amino acid deletions, substitutions or additions within an IgE binding site of the wild-type peanut allergen.

40. **(Previously presented)** The composition of claim 39, wherein the sequence of the modified allergen lacks an IgE binding site of the wild-type allergen sequence.

41. **(Original)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen is located in the cytoplasm of the dead *E. coli*.

42. **(Original)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen is located in the periplasm of the dead *E. coli*.

43. **(Original)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen cannot be detected by antibody binding without disrupting the dead *E. coli*.

44. **(Original)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the composition is formulated for rectal administration.

45. **(Previously presented)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was heat-killed.

46. **(Previously presented)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed by chemical treatment.

47. **(Currently amended)** The composition of claim 44, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed using a chemical selected from the group consisting of iodine, bleach, ozone, and alcohol ~~alcohols~~.